

the Irish Press newspaper group before moving to the United States in 1987, Ray has reported from three continents in a news career spanning 39 years.

In addition to his work as a reporter and editor, Ray has been a frequent contributor to U.S., Irish, and British media outlets reporting on Ireland, Irish-American affairs, and Anglo-Irish relations. He has appeared on CBS 60 minutes, ABC World News Tonight, and the Lehrer News Hour on PBS. He has also been interviewed on RTE, BBC and ITV, both television and radio.

A prolific writer, Ray's book, "The New Irish Americans" (Roberts Rinehart, 1998) was the recipient of a Washington Irving Book Award. "The South Lawn Plot," his first fiction work, was published in 2011 by Boston-based Gemma Media publishers. Ray is currently working on a new book on Irish immigration that will have a particular focus on the 1965 Immigration Reform and Nationality Act. A graduate of University College Dublin, Ray lives with his wife Lisa, a native of Danville, Illinois, in Ossining, New York. They have three grown children: Kate, Liz and Jack.

Ray O'Hanlon has accomplished a great deal over a long and distinguished career. He is most deserving of this wonderful recognition from AOH. Congratulations to Ray and I thank him for all he continues to do on behalf of our community.

HONORING THE YONKERS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 31, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor a civic organization in Yonkers that this year is celebrating a remarkable milestone—the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce. 2018 will mark 125 years for the Chamber, which for well over a century now has worked to improve economic development in the region while building and promoting the city of Yonkers.

The Chamber's legacy of service began, officially, on May 1, 1893 when William F. Cochran, a leading Yonkers businessman, entered the old City Court Room and rapped his gavel to officially sanction what was to become a tradition to the local business community. The Yonkers Board of Trade was born. A number of prominent citizens, fifty-two to be exact, gathered to sanction what would later become Yonkers' leading business organization.

A decade later, the Board of Trade continued to address issues of concern and helped establish a visible and viable business community. In 1903 the decision was made to form a Chamber of Commerce, and the process to make this a reality was put into place. On December 8, 1913, the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce officially became the 325th certified member of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber of Commerce has served as the guardian and advocate of business, and works to foster a healthy relationship with government to establish programs designed to enhance business opportunities and attract new commercial establishments to the city. The Chamber of Commerce represents a diversified membership of retail, industry, professionals and service organizations, etc. from major corporations to "mom and pop" stores. Each member is treated with the same respect and concern, regardless of size.

Today, the mission of the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce "to serve, build and promote a progressive city" is alive and well. Congratulations to the entire Yonkers Chamber of Commerce Board, leadership, and membership on reaching this remarkable milestone.

HONORING THE AFYA FOUNDATION 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 31, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an organization that has done tremendous work both locally and on the global stage for 10 remarkable years now, The AFYA Foundation.

The vision for AFYA began to take shape in a tent in the Serengeti. It was 2008, and AFYA's founder, Danielle Butin, was in Tanzania. She saw a woman sitting in a tent crying, who said, "I am a highly sought-after physician from London, I took a month off from my practice to come here to volunteer and work in medical clinics. But they have nothing . . . absolutely nothing. I cannot save children from malaria because there are no meds or IV bags of fluids. People come in with infected wounds, and I have nothing to treat them with." In that moment, Danielle was compelled to take action. She returned home and immediately put her familiarity with and experience in New York City healthcare to use—cold calling hospitals and asking about materials that are discarded. In January 2008 she launched AFYA, which means "health" or "wellness" in Swahili.

Almost immediately, hospitals started donating supplies. Since they didn't have a warehouse to store the equipment and supplies, a semi-trailer sat for three weeks outside her home in Westchester County. These humble beginnings are what grew 10 years later into an organization with a staff of 14, 3,000 volunteers annually, and a 17,000 square foot warehouse in Yonkers.

Today, AFYA continues to serve those in need with the same compassion that inspired its vision ten years ago on the African savannah. As the Congressman representing Yonkers and the Ranking Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I couldn't be prouder of the work they have done and continue to do. I want to congratulate Danielle and the entire AFYA team on ten remarkable years and thank them for all they have done to better our community and world.